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*Ans*

4. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid, according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein it is obtainable by dissolving xylitol and at least one other polyol in water and fluidizing the resulting aqueous mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 30°C to 110°C.

5. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1, wherein the [characterized in that] xylitol and mannitol[,]; xylitol and lactitol; or xylitol, mannitol and lactitol are employed as polyols.

6. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is [in a range between] 90:10 to 98:2[, in particular between 90:10 to 95:5].

7. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is [in a range between] 90:10 to 98:2[, in particular between 90:10 to 95:5].

8. (Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the xylitol:mannitol:lactitol ratio is [in a range] between 90:1:9 or 90:9:1 and 98:1:1.

9. (Twice Amended) A [D]directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1, [characterized in that]wherein the water content is less than 1% by weight.

10. (Twice Amended) A [P]process for producing a directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1, [characterized in that it comprises the following steps] comprising:

- producing an aqueous solution of xylitol and at least one other polyol, the resulting mixture having a xylitol content of more than 90% by weight based on the total polyol content,

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Omit*
- b1) spraying the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 120°C to 300°C, evaporation of the water taking place,
  - b2) fluidizing the resulting mixture in a stream of air at a temperature of from 30°C to 110°C, evaporation of the water taking place, and
  - c) isolating the tabletting aid.

11. (Twice Amended) [Use of a directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1 for] A method for producing a shaped [and] or unshaped polyol composition[s] by melt [extrusion] extruding a directly compressible tabletting aid mixture according to Claim 1.

12. (Twice Amended) A composition or formulation [Compositions or formulations, characterized in that they comprise] comprising a directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1.

13. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s], [characterized in that comprising [they comprise] a directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 1.

14. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising [they comprise] one or more water-insoluble and/or water-soluble additions homogeneously dispersed.

15. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising [they comprise] citric acid as addition.

16. (Twice Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 13, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more additions selected from the group of] active pharmaceutical ingredient[s], sweetener[s], colorant[s], vitamin[s] [and] or trace element[s].

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17. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 16, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more] active pharmaceutical ingredient[s] [selected from the group of] which is an analgesics [and] or antacid[s].

18. (Amended) A [S]solid form[s] or compact[s] according to Claim 16, [characterized in that] comprising at least [they comprise] one [or more] sweetener[s] [selected from the group of] which is acesulfame K, aspartame, saccharin, cyclamate, sucralose [and] or neohesperidine DC.

Please add the following new claims.

*BB Sub 1*

-- 19. A directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to mannitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5.

20. A directly compressible tabletting aid according to Claim 5, wherein the ratio of xylitol to lactitol is in a range between 90:10 to 95:5. --

#### R E M A R K S

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application with claims 19 and 20 added by this amendment. Support for the claims may be found in the claims as originally filed.

#### Claim Objection

Applicants respectfully submit that this objection should be withdrawn and claim 10 examined because the objected language was removed by the preliminary amendment filed April 14, 2000.